

Draft Minutes of the
Delta Protection Commission Meeting
September 25, 2003
Jean Harvie Community Center – 6:30 p.m.

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Chairman McCarty called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m.

Present: Chairman McCarty, Commissioners Cabaldon, Coglianese, Curtis, Forney, Kelly, Johnson, McGowan, Nottoli, Sanders, Shaffer, van Loben Sels, and Wilson.

Absent: Vice-Chair Ferguson, Commissioners Beltran, Calone, Glover, Ornellas, and Sturm.

2. Public Comments

Chairman McCarty invited the audience to address the Commission regarding items not on the agenda; no one addressed the Commission.

3. Minutes of the Last Meeting

Commissioner Kelly asked that page four of the minutes be changed to reflect that the South Delta Improvements Project Draft EIR/EIS will be released in December 2003, not June 2004. Additionally, on page five, she asked that the “intake of 250,000 cubic feet per second” be changed to “250 cubic feet per second. She said she would forward minor edits to staff.

Commissioner Coglianese asked that the minutes be changed to reflect that she attended her first CBDA meeting as a “representative of Solano County Mayors to the ABAG CALFED task force”.

Commissioner Shaffer moved approval of the minutes; Commissioner Coglianese seconded. The minutes were approved by voice vote with corrections.

4. Chairman's Report

Chairman McCarty reported that the Agriculture Committee will meet Thursday, October 16, 2003 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and the CALFED Committee will meet Wednesday, October 29, 2003 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Chairman McCarty announced that Kirk Sturm has been appointed as the newest Commissioner. Mr. Sturm is the new Northern Division Chief at the Department of Parks and Recreation, and is replacing Ron Brean on the Commission.

He asked that the Commissioners approve a resolution of appreciation for former Commissioner Brean; an amended resolution was circulated at the meeting. On a motion by Commissioner Wilson seconded by Commissioner Forney, the resolution was approved.

The next meeting of the DPC has been scheduled for Thursday, November 20, 2003, 6:30 p.m., at the Jean Harvie Community Center.

5. Commissioner Comments/Announcements

Commissioner Johnson reported that the Department of Boating and Waterways has had to perform toxicology tests as part of its aquatic weed control program, due to the listing of the Splittail Minnow. The recent de-listing of the Splittail is expected to save DBW \$100,000 per year. Commissioner Johnson reported that DBW has been working with Contra Costa County on its abandoned/stray vessel ordinance. He said DBW staff met with the Contra Costa County attorney in July to discuss the draft ordinance. The County will be redrafting the ordinance.

Commissioner Shaffer announced that the next BDPAC Working Landscapes Subcommittee meeting would be on Thursday, October 2, 2003 at the Department of Food and Agriculture. Agenda items include: presentation of research and strategies to address payment in lieu of taxes issues associated with public acquisition of land; use of evaluation tools to assess ag land conversion impacts; a presentation on fish-friendly farming; and discussion of the upcoming grant solicitation package, which will include funding for farmers to assist in meeting CALFED ecosystem restoration goals.

Commissioner Coglianese noted that she is a member of the public advisory committee updating the California Water Plan. She said a draft report will be released by the end of this year; in the report, the Delta will be added as a "region". She said there is currently no text on the Delta portion of the plan available for review; draft text on other portions of the plan is available on the DWR website. She said she is interested in seeing description of the Delta, and iterated her concern over the how the boundary between the "Bay Area" and the "Delta" was established and its usefulness for the purposes of regional water planning.

Commissioner Kelly reported that DWR, the Bureau of Reclamation, and the CVP and SWP water users had a series of meetings in July. They developed an agreement on how the CVP and SWP would be integrated, and how they would proceed with projects currently in the planning stages. Additionally, USBR and DWR will be formulating an Operations Criteria and Plan (OCAP). She noted that a public meeting would be held in Stockton on September 30, 2003 to discuss these items. She called out two projects directly related to this process: the South Delta Improvements Program, which would increase the export limit to 8500 cfs and address water levels and circulation problems in the South Delta; and the intertie between the Delta Mendota Canal and California Aqueduct, which would allow the USBR greater flexibility in operations during high flows. Environmental documents for both projects are scheduled for release in December 2003; a public scoping meeting will be held in November.

6. Attorney General's Report

Dan Siegel said he didn't have anything to report.

7. Executive Director's Report

Ms Aramburu reported on several items:

- Pending Projects Memo included in the packet
- Final Budget Report for FY 02-03: The Commission returned \$24,000 in unexpended funds at the end of the fiscal year.
- Revised Budget and Work Plan for FY 03-04: Staff redrafted the budget and work plan, and added a task of assisting in preparation of the report on the Commission and its activities; this must be submitted to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee before the end of the calendar year.
- Final Report on Legislation: She noted that the first year of the legislative session is over.
- CALFED grants: The CA Bay-Delta Authority at its August meeting approved the three Directed Actions proposed in the Delta that were considered by the Commission earlier this year.
- Salisbury Island, Contra Costa County: The Board of Supervisors voted to demolish the unpermitted structures and docks on the island; the owners sued the County in Superior Court in mid-August alleging they were not given an opportunity to bring their structures into compliance with zoning codes. A court hearing is scheduled for October 1, 2003.
- Grant application: The Commission's grant application to the State Water Resources Control Board (Watershed and Nonpoint Source Pollution) to address the regulation of agricultural discharges for the entire Delta was not approved.
- AFT's Delta Agriculture Study: AFT, like many nonprofits, has a budget shortfall and has recently laid off 25% of its employees nationwide. The Study is slated to continue, but AFT is working on adjustments to the schedule and funding.
- Study of Delta Recreation: DBW has set aside \$225,000 for a study of Delta recreation. Commission staff is working with DBW staff to ensure that all contract requirements will be met. The project would be completed by June 30, 2004.
- Delta GIS meeting: Staff set up a meeting to ensure that the State agencies and nonprofits doing GIS/mapping work in the Delta are coordinating their efforts and using the same data.
- Reclamation Board meeting: Staff attended a recent meeting that included a briefing on the River Island Project proposed for Stewart Tract (in the Secondary Zone) and approval of FY 03-04 funding for Delta levees.
- Several Commissioners have raised concerns about proposed State regulations that would dramatically increase the cost of providing farmworker housing; the purpose of the fee increase was to have the program 100% fee supported. Since the release of the first regulations, some General Funds have been made available to carry out the farmworker housing inspection program, so revised regulations are being drafted. The revised regulations will propose some fee increase, and are due to be released in October.
- Farming in the Yolo Wildlife Area: Featured on the most recent newsletter from the Yolo Flyway Newsletter (Yolo Basin Foundation) is an article about how agriculture and wildlife are continuing to successfully coexist on the 13,000 acres added to the Wildlife Area in 2001. Organic tomatoes, rice, and safflower are mentioned as wildlife-friendly crops in production there.

7b. Update on the State Budget, Funding for the Delta Protection Commission and Next Steps Regarding the Commission's Future

Ms Aramburu noted that there are new requirements linked to the Commission's budget; these are included in the Commission's budget and work plan memos. In addition to the meeting Chairman McCarty and staff had with Resources Secretary Mary Nichols, they also met with Dave Widdell of the Resources Agency, who has been assigned to this project, and she has prepared a background "white paper" for him to use in the formulation of the report. She added that Senator Machado has scheduled a hearing on the Commission for October 28, 2003, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Jean Harvie. She said this hearing would provide a unique opportunity for the public to speak directly to the Legislature, rather than having the Commission gather public input and forward those comments to the Legislature.

Commissioner Coglianese expressed concern over the short timeline between Senator Machado's hearing and the report due date. She said she agreed with Commissioner Cabaldon's suggestion at the July meeting that the DPC be proactive in beginning to formulate scenarios for its future, and said that this exercise should be completed in advance of the hearing.

Chairman McCarty agreed that at the July meeting, the Commission expressed a desire to be proactive in developing scenarios for its future, recognizing the changes that have come about over the last ten years, and to engage all interested stakeholders in the exercise. However, it now appears that the report will be prepared by the Resources Agency with assistance from the Commission, rather than prepared by the Commission. He said it is DPC's job to make sure Mr. Widdell, who is charged with preparation of the report, understands what the DPC is, its responsibilities and accomplishments to date, and what is needed for the future. He said he was pleased that Senator Machado scheduled the Senate Select Committee hearing, and urged the Commission to keep an open mind when considering future scenarios and continue to recognize the importance of this issue for the Delta. He asked Commissioners to submit any ideas about the future direction, composition, and possible expansion or shrinking of the purview of the Commission.

Commissioner McGowan asked how the Commission will formulate its presentation at the hearing, and if staff will be prepared to offer a position. Chairman McCarty said the Commission should make a presentation at the hearing to educate the Legislators and public about its current role. Ms Aramburu said the Commission did not adopt any position at the last meeting, and agreed that the presentation at the hearing would be informational, a picture of the Delta from the Commission's viewpoint.

Commissioner McGowan suggested that the Commission take an advocacy position and make a case for it at the hearing. Commissioner Coglianese agreed, and said the direction from the Resources Agency (in the preparation of the report) puts the Commission in a passive position, which reinforces the sentiments of people who are saying that the Commission "doesn't do anything". She urged the Commission to adopt a position to present at Senator Machado's hearing.

Commissioner McGowan asked what Chairman McCarty would say at the hearing if he were to be asked what the Commission should do, and look like, in the future. Chairman McCarty answered that he is a strong advocate for the Commission, and is proud of what it has accomplished. He said the Commission has made a difference in the Delta, and has done a good job of “drawing a line in the peat”; if the Commission were eliminated, there would likely be many proposals to develop the agricultural lands in the Delta Primary Zone. He said the Commission is charged with the protection of a unique resource, and in view of the pressures being put on the Delta by urban development in the Secondary Zone, by the State and federal water projects, and by the continuing conflicts between the Delta’s various land uses, there is a great need today, and will be an even greater need in the future, for a body like the Commission to represent the region and its unique resources.

Chairman McCarty said that there has been some criticism that one of the “three legs of the stool” is represented more than the others, but noted that there will never be perfect balance among these because the issues migrate. He suggested other points of view may be helpful, but would need to be carefully considered.

Commissioner Cabaldon suggested it would benefit the Commission to address the criticisms that have been raised. For example, the make-up of the Commission and balance should be discussed to determine if there are gaps or imbalance, and the issue of whether the Commission should have a different role in the Secondary Zone should be addressed. He cautioned that the Senate Select Committee could rewrite the Commission’s legislation without the Commission’s input if it is not adequately prepared for this hearing. If this occurs, the Commission will cease to exist, or be modified to address issues raised by others. He said the Commission needs to understand why these criticisms are being raised, and know how to address them.

Commissioner McGowan said he has heard two criticisms: first, that the Commission does not have the right players at the table, and second, that the Commission doesn’t do enough. He suggested that the Commission come up with some alternatives to address both of these issues, rather than argue that the criticisms are invalid. He said the Commission needs to determine what it can do better than any other entity; for example, it is the only body that wholly represents, and is only concerned with the welfare of, the Delta.

Commissioner Coglianese said numerous planning activities – including CALFED and the Water Plan update – champion regional planning, and that there needs to be a place where Delta residents can participate in and respond to these activities; so far, this is an important role that the Commission has filled. She said that the Commission could heighten its activities in educating local governments about the issues associated with development in and around the Delta, and that if local governments were more involved, the interest and support for the Commission could be heightened. She has heard suggestions that the Commission be funded by the Counties, but she thinks regional planning would be very difficult to fund, and said the fiscal support should continue to come from the State. Commissioner McGowan said that he is not opposed to some local fiscal support, but if local governments were expected to fund the entire program, it would likely disappear.

Commissioner van Loben Sels said a lot of the benefits of the Commission to the Delta area are intangible, and that the Commission can provide a perspective that helps the State maximize the use of its dollars in the long run (for example, by requesting that State agencies acquiring agricultural lands for habitat restoration purposes maintain agricultural use to yield multiple benefits).

Commissioner Cabaldon said he is most interested in how Chairman McCarty would respond to questions after the presentation, such as how the Commission guarantees adequate representation of issues and interests related to habitat. He noted CALFED staff's disappointment that the Commission is not involved in the River Islands project in the Secondary Zone. He said the Commission needs to think about how development in the Secondary Zone is impacting the Primary Zone, and what it should be doing to address that development. He said the Commission's appeal authority was a "cutting edge" idea at the time, but there are planning processes going on in the Bay Area and Sacramento region (Blueprint Process), and the Commission has not been involved in either. He noted the growth issue is critical, the Commission needs to be involved in a more formal way, and it needs to take positions on these questions.

Commissioner Shaffer said the exercise of formulating future scenarios could be similar to a CEQA document or Budget Change Proposal, including a "no action" alternative, and evaluations on the expansion or contraction of the Commission's role.

Ms Aramburu suggested the Commission might want to meet on October 23 to further discuss scenarios and adopt positions in preparation for the hearing. She said the Commission would need to discuss changes in agriculture, wildlife habitat, and recreation over the last ten years; the "white paper" she prepared; and some scenarios.

Chairman McCarty agreed that an October meeting would be needed, and asked the Commissioners to think about:

- Are the right players at the table, and if not, who else should be included?
- What can the Commission do better than any other entity, today and in the future?
- Where are the Commission's activities duplicative of those of other entities?

Commissioner Coglianese added that a discussion of the Commission's role in the Secondary Zone should occur; Commissioner Sanders noted this could fall under the issue of future scenarios for the Commission.

Commissioner Cabaldon suggested that Commissioners formulate ideas of what the Commission's legislation would like if it were to be written from scratch today, and that a subcommittee of the Commission vet ideas prior to the October Commission meeting.

Chairman McCarty directed staff to circulate a draft framework of this discussion to Commissioners for individual response; this would be considered by the subcommittee, and then by the full Commission in October.

Mr. Siegel advised that communications between Commissioners outside of a publicly

noticed meeting might be inappropriate. He said Commissioners could forward comments and suggestions to staff to be discussed at the subcommittee meeting, as long as all comments and suggestions were available to and shared with the public.

Chairman McCarty opened the meeting for public comments.

Craig Reynolds, staff to Assemblymember Lois Wolk, said he believed Assemblymember Wolk would have been concerned if the Commission had not chosen to be proactive about the discussion of future scenarios. He asked how the Commission would communicate its position to the Resources Agency and the rest of the Legislature beyond the Senate Select hearing, and suggested communication with other relevant Legislative Committees.

Chairman McCarty answered that the Senate Select Committee hearing parallels the process of developing information for the Secretary for Resources to include in the report to the Legislative Budget Committee. The Commission will meet on October 23 to prepare to respond to the questions raised at the Senate hearing; the outcome of the meeting and the hearing would become part of the "white paper" being presented to the Resources Agency.

Chairman McCarty closed the public hearing.

Commissioner McGowan suggested the Commission come out of its October meeting with a position to carry forward; Commissioner Coglianese suggested the Commission consider a range of options at the October meeting and then await input from the hearing.

8. CALFED Activities and Projects

Ron Ott, California Bay-Delta Authority (CBDA), provided the Commission with an update on activities to date.

Delta Planning: Mr. Ott said that one of the ongoing topics of discussion at the BDPAC meetings is how to integrate Delta activities (as well as activities in other regions) to avoid duplication of efforts. In the interest of integrating activities, CBDA, in conjunction with the Department of Water Resources' Bulletin 160 Update, is looking to develop regional profiles. The regional profile for the Delta would be designed to pull together data for an integrated regional water management plan (the Delta Regional Implementation Plan). The Delta Regional Implementation Plan that the Commission has been briefed on in the past is on hold until this regional profile is compiled.

Ecosystem Restoration: The Department of Fish and Game will release two chapters of the Delta Regional Ecosystem Restoration Implementation Plan (DRERIP) later this year for the Commission to review.

In-Delta Storage: The feasibility study reports that were to be released on October 2, 2003, have been delayed. A recent meeting with former Senator Patrick Johnston brought up the issue of how lower San Joaquin River flood studies under the Corps' Comprehensive Study factored into the In-Delta Storage proposal. Mr. Ott said he met with DWR and the Corps to check on the status of these studies; both groups will be finishing their "white

paper" to explain how these processes fit together and will formulate a strategy on how to engage local involvement.

The San Francisco Estuary Conference is scheduled for November 21-23, 2003; the main topic of conversation will be integration of projects.

9. Consider Signing MOU Creating CALFED Agency Coordination Team

Ms. Aramburu advised the Commission that signing this MOU would allow the Commission to continue to coordinate with other agencies in the implementation of the CALFED program. She said that since there are only six State agencies on the Bay Delta Authority, CALFED agencies felt it was important to continue to coordinate with other agencies not seated on the Authority through the adoption of a new MOU.

Chairman McCarty invited questions and comments from the Commissioners and the public. No one addressed the Commission.

Commissioner Shaffer moved approval of signing the MOU; Commissioner Wilson seconded. The MOU was approved by voice vote.

10. Consider Sending a Letter to CALFED Bay Delta Public Advisory Committee Suggesting that One Member Represent Recreation Interest

Chairman McCarty placed this item on the November 2003 meeting agenda.

11. Consider Accepting Staff Research/Report on Implementation of the CALFED Ecosystem Restoration Program in the Delta Protection Commission

Chairman McCarty placed this item on the November 2003 meeting agenda.

12. Briefing on Decker Island II/Habitat Enhancement Project

Kent Nelson, Department of Water Resources, provided the Commission with an overview of a habitat enhancement project on Decker Island. Mr. Nelson said the project is a combination of habitat restoration work and levee rehabilitation in the Western Delta. It is funded through AB 360 (Delta Levees Subvention and Special Projects Program) and considered one of the special habitat enhancement projects.

Mr. Nelson said work on Phase I of the Decker Island project began in 1999 when 350 cubic yards of stored dredge material was taken from DFG property on the northern tip of Decker Island and moved to Twitchell Island to create a setback levee. Phase II of the project would have another 270,000 cubic yards of material removed from the same DFG property on Decker Island for levee rehabilitation work on Bradford, Jersey, and Van Sickle Islands, and recreate a tidal wetland system where the material has been removed from the island.

The primary goals being met by the project are the beneficial reuse of dredge material and tidal wetland habitat creation. In Phase I, 20,000 lineal feet of levee rehabilitation work was performed on Webb Tract on Twitchell Island and Phase II is projected to have over 30,000 linear feet of levee rehabilitation work on Bradford, Jersey and Van Sickle Islands.

The completion of both phases will have created 34 acres of wetland and upland habitats. The overall cost of Phase I is \$5.6 million, and Phase II is expected to cost \$4.4 million. These costs include excavation of materials, habitat creation, and material export placement and mobilization.

Mr. Nelson stated that benefits of the project include support of the Delta Protection Commission's goal of preserving and protecting wildlife habitat. Additionally, the project takes place on land where there is no agricultural activity, and the property is owned by DFG; these aspects of the project are in line with what the Commission has suggested in the past. He said DWR is using local vendors, contractors and labor as part of the contract process to implement the project.

Although Phases I and II did not receive any CALFED funding, DWR is asking CALFED to cost share on the expansion of the project. He said this project provides ecosystem restoration benefits to CALFED and the AB360 program by providing wetland and riparian habitats and in-channel island protection and enhancement, resulting in habitat protection for species. He said the project also satisfies the levee system integrity objectives of CALFED and as such, prevents saline water from entering the Delta, thereby also providing water quality and water supply benefits.

The types of habitat created in Phase I were 2.37 acres of open title channels, 3.32 acres of emerging marsh, 1.56 acre of riparian woodland and upland scrub, and 3.85 acres of riparian scrub habitat. UC Berkley has partnered with DWR on Phase I to perform studies on sediment dynamics inside wetlands; they are also developing an extensive monitoring plan to determine use of the wetland by fish, examine vulnerability of the newly created aquatic habitat to exotic weeds, and evaluate the effectiveness of upland weed control. Phase II would extend the tidal channels developed in Phase I; the project area would be 10.6 acres.

CEQA documentation has been filed with the State Clearinghouse; State and Federal permits are in process. The construction contract has been signed and the work will proceed within a week. It is estimated that work on Decker, Bradford, and Jersey Islands will be completed by the end of December 2003; however, work on Van Sickle Island will not be done until 2004 because of additional permitting issues.

Mr. Nelson noted that the Decker Island project is an example of the ongoing coordination with the CALFED ERP Program to explore mutually beneficial cross-program objectives. This project helps satisfy the levee system integrity issues related to protecting western Delta islands while providing ecosystem benefits for the ERP. Because the project provides this cross-coordination among the programs, it is a good candidate for Proposition 50 funds. Mr. Nelson plans to submit a CALFED proposal in the next round of funding to do intensive monitoring work on Phase II and explore ideas for expanding the project in a third phase. He asked for a letter of support from the Commission.

Commissioner Cabaldon asked if there were any long-term views for integrating the Port of Sacramento's property into a third phase of the project. Mr. Nelson said that they were not looking at those areas for habitat restoration, but they would coordinate with the Port to make sure their activities are not in conflict with the Port's land management objectives. Ms. Aramburu added that the Port has proposed the property as a mitigation site, and currently looking at deepening its ship channel.

Mr. Nelson clarified that the work DWR is pursuing is a habitat enhancement project, not mitigation for any particular work.

Commissioner Shaffer asked about methyl mercury formation and fisheries predation within the tidal wetland. Mr. Nelson said Phase I has an active fisheries monitoring project, but they are in the process of ramping up the intensity and focus of the study of Phase II to address these issues.

Commissioner Curtis asked what proportion the \$10 million spent on the project was used for levee improvements and how much for habitat restoration. Mr. Nelson said he did not have an exact proportion, but the majority of the money was spent on the mobilization of equipment, the movement of material to the western Delta islands, and the reshaping of the levee toe.

Chairman McCarty opened the public hearing. There were no public comments. The public hearing was closed.

Mr. Bob Orcutt, Department of Fish and Game, provided handouts of specific examples of DFG activities associated with the project to date. During Phase I of the project, DFG will address the presence of native vs. non-native species; in Phase II, the studies will be more sophisticated in setting up hypotheses.

Commissioner Nottoli suggested that DFG show the whole area of levee rehabilitation and habitat restoration completed under the project, to give a full picture of the project and provide a broader justification of what the project is trying to accomplish.

Commissioner Coglianese stated that the work on this project is integral to the levee component of the CALFED program, and is a good example of a multi-objective project that provides for high quality habitat through the integration of smaller mitigation projects.

Commissioner Coglianese made a motion to send a letter of support for DWR to obtain CALFED money to expand this project; Commissioner Cabaldon seconded. The motion was approved by voice vote. Commissioner Kelly noted a potential conflict of interest, and abstained from the vote.

Commissioner Shaffer iterated the importance of performance monitoring as the foundation for adaptive management, and said this concept should be included in the support letter

13. Briefing on North Delta Improvements

Gwen Knittweis, Department of Water Resources, briefed the Commission on the status of the North Delta Improvements project. Ms. Knittweis said the project had the potential for synergy between ecosystem restoration and flood control, addresses additional objectives such as water quality and supply for conveyance and reliability, advances the state of scientific knowledge, and contributes to levee stability, recreation, and farmland protection objectives. She noted the North Delta has a long history of flooding, and part of the flooding problem is attributable to a lack of channel capacity. This project will address that need, and include the creation of quality habitat. DWR is looking at the draft EIR for this project to be released by Spring 2004 and the Final EIR by December 2004, with design completion by Spring 2005, and construction completion by Spring 2008.

Ms. Knittweis stated that DWR held public scoping meetings in February 2003 in Walnut Grove and Sacramento. The hydraulic model used for this project will be peer reviewed, and DWR has worked with CALFED Science Program staff and other academic experts to come up with a strategy for address science issues. A science panel meeting is planned for later in 2003; DWR is structuring this project around adaptive management and addressing issues such as mercury, exotic species, and organic carbon. Additionally, DWR has developed alternative screening criteria with their stakeholders and has started research on existing conditions for the EIR, including biological surveys and wetland delineation.

The main emphasis of the project has been on public and nonprofit-owned lands where there has been a significant investment by CALFED. Potential project components include a detention basin on Staten Island (flooding no frequently than once every ten years), setback levees, tidal marsh creation, dredging, seasonal floodplain creation, riparian habitat creation, and bridge replacement.

Ms. Knittweis said the group has been working with the Army Corps of Engineers and there is an interest for them to be the federal lead agency in this process; however, since the Corps usually works through a feasibility study process, the EIR/EIS timelines would have to be reconciled.

Commissioner Shaffer said that some Food and Agriculture staff were involved in the planning process and wondered why land use issues such as agriculture land conversion were not a part of the key planning issues. Ms. Knittweis said she has been working with Ken Trott (Food and Agriculture) and Jeannie Blakeslee (Department of Conservation) to look at those issues.

Commissioner Coglianese said the State's Floodplain Management Task Force has recommended that global climate change be integrated into floodway planning, and asked if this was being incorporated into the project. Ms. Knittweis said they would like to have model runs of extreme situations to address this issue.

Commissioner Cabaldon asked if the focus of this project would remain exclusively on McCormick-Williamson Tract and Staten Island. Ms. Aramburu said that the project study area includes thousands of acres east of the Sacramento River, south of Freeport, and north

of the San Joaquin River and Potato, Little Potato, and White Sloughs, but the solution area (where the improvements would be constructed) are mainly limited to McCormack-Williamson Tract, Staten Island, and Dead Horse Island.

Ms. Aramburu mentioned that there are unique opportunities for recreation as part of this project because State Parks owns property directly west of McCormack Williamson Tract (Delta Meadows), and the Cosumnes Preserve, which is managed in partnership with the Nature Conservancy, owns Staten Island and McCormack-Williamson Tract.

14. Adjourn

Chairman McCarty adjourned the meeting at 9:30 p.m.

Ms. Aramburu announced that Commission staff is trying to schedule a field trip to view the Decker Island project, and would solicit Commissioner interest via e-mail.